NUMB. CXXVI.

The SPECTATOR.

Tros Rutulusve fuat nullo discrimine habebo. Virg.

Wednesday, July 25. 1711.

IN my Yesterday's Paper I proposed, that the honest Men of all Parties should enter into a Kind of Association for the Defence of one another and Confusion of their common Enemies. As it is designed this neutral Body should act with a Regard to nothing but Truth and Equity, and divest themselves of the little Heats and Prepossessions that cleave to Parties of all Kinds. I have prepared for them the following Form of an Association, which may express their Intentions in the most plain and simple Manner.

We whose Names are hereunto subscribed do solemnly declare, that we do in our Consciences believe two and two make four; and that we shall adjudge any Man whatsoever to be our Enemy who endeavours to persuade us to the contrary. We are likewise ready to maintain, with the Hazard of all that is near and dear to us, that six is less than seven in all Times and all Places; and that ten will not be more three Years hence than it is at present. We do also firmly declare, that it is our Resolution as long as we live to call black black, and white white. And we shall upon all Occasions oppose such Persons that upon any Day of the Year shall call black white, or white black, with the utmost Peril of our Lives and Fortunes.

Were there such a Combination of honest Men, that without any Regard to Places would endeavour to extirpate all such furious Zealots as would sacrifice one half of their Country to the Passion and Interest of the other; as also such infamous Hypocrites that are for promoting their own Advantage, under Colour of the publick Good; with all the profligate immoral Retainers to each Side, that have nothing to recommend them but an implicit Submission to their Leaders; we should soon see that furious Party-Spirit extinguished, which may in Time expose us to the Derision and Contempt of all the Nations about us.

A Member of this Society, that would thus carefully employ himself in making Room for Merit, by throwing down the worthless and depraved Part of Mankind from those conspicuous Stations of Life to which they have been sometimes advanced, and all this without any Regard to his private Interest, would be no small Benefactor to his Country.

I remember to have read in *Diodorus Siculus* an Account of a very active little Animal, which I think he calls the *Ichneumon*, that makes it the whole Business of his Life to break the Eggs of the Crocodile, which he is always in search after. This Instinct is the more remarkable, because the *Ichneumon* never feeds upon the Eggs he has broken, nor any other Way finds his Account in them. Were it not for the incessant Labours of this industrious Animal, *Ægypt*, says the Historian, would be overrun with Crocodiles; for the *Ægyptians* are so far from destroying those pernicious Creatures, that they worship them as Gods.

If we look into the Behaviour of ordinary Partizans, we shall find them far from resembling this disinterested Animal; and rather acting after the Example of the wild *Tartars*, who are ambitious of destroying a Man of the most extraordinary Parts and Accomplishments, as thinking that upon his Decease the same Talents, whatever Post they qualified him for, enter of Course into his Destroyer.

As in the whole Train of my Speculations, I have endeavoured as much as I am able to extinguish that pernicious Spirit of Passion and Prejudice, which rages with the same Violence in all Parties, I am still the more desirous of doing some Good in this Particular, because I observe that the Spirit of Party reigns more in the Country than in the Town. It here contracts a kind of Brutality and rustick Fierceness, to which Men of a politer Conversation are wholly Strangers. It extends it self even to the Return of the Bow and the Hat; and at the same Time that the Heads of Parties preserve towards one another an outward Shew of good Breeding, and keep up a perpetual Intercourse of Civili-

ties

ties, their Tools that are dispersed in these outlying Parts will not so much as mingle together at a Cock-Match. This Humour fills the Country with several periodical Meetings of Whig Jockeys and Tory Fox-hunters; not to mention the innumerable Curses, Frowns, and Whispers that it produces at a Quarter-Sessions.

I do not know whether I have observed in any of my former Papers, that my Friends Sir ROGER DE COVERLY and Sir ANDREW FREEPORT are of different Principles, the first of them inclined to the *landed* and the other to the *monyed* Interest. This Humour is so moderate in each of them, that it proceeds no farther than to an agreeable Raillery, which very often diverts the rest of the Club. I find however that the Knight is a much stronger Tory in the Country than in Town, which, as he has told me in my Ear, is absolutely necessary for the keeping up his Interest. In all our Journey from *London* to his House we did not so much as bait at a Whig Inn; or if by Chance the Coachman stopped at a wrong Place, one of Sir ROGER's Servants would ride up to his Master full Speed, and whisper to him that the Master of the House was against such an one in the last Election. This often betrayed us into hard Beds and bad Chear; for we were not so inquisitive about the Inn as the Innkeeper, and provided our Landlord's Principles were sound, did not take any Notice of the Staleness of his Provisions. This I found still the more inconvenient, because the better the Hoste was, the worse generally were his Accommodations; the Fellow knowing very well, that those who were his Friends would take up with coarse Diet and an hard Lodging. For these Reasons, all the while I was upon the Road I dreaded entering into an House of any one that Sir ROGER had applauded for an honest Man.

Since my Stay at Sir ROGER's in the Country, I daily find more Instances of this narrow Party-Humour. Being upon the Bowling-Green at a neighbouring Market-Town the other Day, (for that is the Place where the Gentlemen of one Side meet once a Week) I observed a Stranger among them of a better Presence and genteeler Behaviour than ordinary; but was much surprized, that notwithstanding he was a very fair *Better*, no Body would take him up. But upon Enquiry I found, that he was one who had given a disagreeable Vote in a former Parliament, for which Reason there was not a Man upon that Bowling-Green who would have so much Correspondence with him as to win his Money of him.

Among other Instances of this Nature I must not omit one which concerns to my self. *Will. Wimble* was the other Day relating several strange Stories that he had picked up no Body knows where of a certain great Man; and upon my staring at him as one that was surprized to hear such things in the Country that had never been so much as whispered in the Town, *Will.* stopped short in the Thread of his Discourse, and after Dinner asked my Friend Sir ROGER in his Ear if he was sure that I was not a Fanatick.

It gives me a serious Concern to see such a Spirit of Dissention in the Country, not only as it destroys Virtue and common Sense, and renders us in a Manner Barbarians towards one another, but as it perpetuates our Animosities, widens our Breaches, and transmits our present Passions and Prejudices to our Posterity. For my own Part, I am sometimes afraid that I discover the Seeds of a Civil War in these our Divisions; and therefore cannot but bewail, as in their first Principles, the Miseries and Calamities of our Children.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Not acted these twenty Years.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, on Friday next, being the 29th of July, will be reviv'd a Comedy call'd the Volunteers, or the Stock-Jobbers. The Part of Blunt by Mr. Cross, Hackwell by Mr. Norris, Hackwell, Jun. by Mr. Booth, Wefford by Mr. Mills, Sir Nicholas Dainty by Mr. Pack, Sir Timothy Kastril by Mr. Bullock, Nickum by Mr. Bullock, Jun. Tensia by Mrs. Saunders, Eugenia by Mrs. Bradshaw, Clara by Mrs. Porter, Winifred by Miss Willis, Mrs. Hackwell by Mrs. Powell.

Gown Warehouse, at Baker's Coffee-house in Exchange-Alley. Gowns for Men and Women are still continued to be sold by the same Person who first took the Warehouse, (and is not Removed as is falsly and maliciously publish'd in the News-Papers) Where such Parcels of choice Gowns of all sorts are daily made or brought in, and expos'd to Sale. No Warehouse in London has half the quantity, value, nor variety of Gowns, neither can they be sold at so low Rates. These are to certify that Henry Baker (who doth affirm that he was the first that sold Gowns in Baker's Coffee-house) was only a few Weeks Journeyman in the said Warehouse, and never Master, as Mrs. Baker and her Servants will justify.

The silk Gowns formerly sold in Exchange-Alley are removed to the Sign of the Hood and Scarf, over against the Coffee-house in Cornhill; where there is great Variety of the choicest Silks weekly made up, as the others are sold off, which is such a considerable Number that alone is sufficient to satisfie any one that 'tis the cheapest Warehouse in Town. N.B. There are also fine and Persian quilted Petticoats very full and the best Work to be sold with the selling Price writ on each of them.

Just Publish'd,

Some Observations on a Pamphlet, entituled, A modest Representation of the past and present State of Great Britain, Occasion'd by the late Change in the Administration, By Bubalus. Price 2 d. A Letter to a Member of the October-Club: Shewing that to yield Spain to the Duke of Anjou by a Peace wou'd be the certain Ruin of Great-Britain. Price 12 d. Reflections on the Examiner's scandalous Peace, (which may serve as an Appendix to the former.) Price 3 d. All sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-lane.

An Incomparable pleasant Tincture to restore the Sense of Smelling, tho' lost for many Years. A few Drops of which being snuff'd up the Nose, infallibly Cures those who have lost their Smell, let it proceed from what Cause soever; it admirably opens all manner of Obstructions of the Olfactory, or Smelling Nerves, comforts and strengthens the Head and Brain, and revives the Smelling Faculty to a Miracle, effectually removing whatever is the Cause of the Disorder of that Sense, and perfectly Cures, so as to enable the Person to smell as quick and well, as any one in the World. Price 6 d. a Bottle. Sold only at Mr. Payne's Toyshop at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard near Cheapside, with Directions.

Just publish'd,

The NATURE of MAN. A Poem. In three Books. Printed for Sam. Buckley in Little-Britain; and sold by S. Crouch in Cornhill J. Churchill in Pater-noster-row, D. Midwinter in St. Paul's Church-yard, Jacob Tonson over against Catherine

Just Publish'd,

Specimen Physico-Medicum. de Corpore Humano & ejus Morbis: Or, An Essay concerning the Knowledge and Cure of most Diseases afflicting humane Bodies. To which is annex'd a short Account of Salivation, and the use of Mercury. With a copious Index. By P. Paxton. M. D. Printed for W. Innys, at the Prince's Arms in St. Paul's Church-yard.

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